

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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AUGUST 22, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary

THROUGH: 3/8 *W3*

FROM: H. Alexis Johnson

SUBJECT: Organization for Mobilizing World Opinion.

In accordance with his request, I met with General Taylor today on the foregoing subject. The Attorney General, Ed Murrow, and Allen Dulles were also present.

There was a long and somewhat diffuse discussion on the foregoing subject, particularly with respect to the handling of the Berlin question. Ed Murrow, Allen Dulles and I outlined how we operated in this field, generally taking the position that, while there was always of course room for improvement, we felt our present organizations were fairly effective. However, we did agree that we probably could be more effective in mobilizing and using private American public opinion leaders with their counterparts and contacts abroad. I pointed out that, in addition to CIA assets in this field, the P area maintains a wide range of contacts that probably could be utilized more effectively and said I would explore this possibility with Roger Tubby. We all agreed that probably more should be done with labor and student groups in this regard.

As there was considerable sentiment that the matter should be otherwise looked into more thoroughly, I agreed to the formation of a Presidential committee, to be formed of outside citizens, to examine how the Berlin matter had been handled and to make recommendations to the President for any organizational or other changes thought necessary. (The example of the Killian committee on intelligence was cited.) It was agreed that the committee should be formed of three or four persons selected from the fields of labor, education, business and public media and that we would communicate nominations for such a committee to General Taylor by Thursday afternoon. While I will discuss the matter with Roger Tubby, I would also appreciate any suggestions for nominations that you may have. I will follow up on other aspects of the matter and do not see any need for further action on your part at this time.

Copies to: B - Mr. Ball

P - Mr. Tubby  
D - Mr. Rogers Jones  
Mr. Hughes

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